



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

Resolution 2020-01

WHEREAS the State Constitution established the Washington State Board of Health in 1889;

WHEREAS the Board provides a forum for developing public health policy in Washington State and is empowered to hold hearings and explore ways to improve the health status of the citizenry;

WHEREAS Governor Jay Inslee appointed John Wiesman DrPH, MPH, Secretary of Health in April 2013, and Secretary Wiesman has continued to capably and faithfully serve the people of our state with wisdom, integrity, and humility;

WHEREAS Secretary Wiesman has dedicated his career to public health, and has strived to improve and protect the health of all people in Washington through his authentic engagement with sovereign tribal nations, partners in local health, health care, and others across our state and nation;

WHEREAS Secretary Wiesman has reached across the governmental public health system to build consensus and strengthen partnerships and helped memorialize these partnerships in state law that recognizes and advances the foundational public health services;

WHEREAS Secretary Wiesman has worked to prevent nicotine addiction among our youth by working to change the age of purchase for tobacco and vaping products to age 21 in Washington;

WHEREAS Secretary Wiesman has recognized the barriers to care, prevention and healing that stigma can create, and successfully fought for passage of state law to eliminate exceptionalism for HIV/AIDS;

WHEREAS Secretary Wiesman, in response to the injustice and brutality that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color experience, declared that racism is a public health issue, and has committed the Department of Health to lead its work with a focus on racial equity and social justice;

WHEREAS, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck Washington State, Secretary Wiesman modeled how respond to a pandemic using fundamental, evidence-based public health interventions to flatten the curve, and open transparent communication so people understand how to protect one another from the spread of disease;

WHEREAS Secretary Wiesman has accomplished this and more during his time as Secretary of Health and as a Board member;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board recognizes and thanks Secretary Wiesman for his dedicated and outstanding service to the citizens of Washington State;


Keith Grellner, Chair